

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Winston, N. C.

Winston, N. C., March 10, 1886.

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The bill appropriating \$80,000 for the building of a Federal Court House at Asheville, N. C., passed the House of representatives on the 3d inst.

The President has nominated James C. Matthews, colored, of Albany, N. Y., to succeed Fred Douglas, recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia, resigned.

The bill known as the Blair bill, to aid popular education, passed the United States Senate Friday. It must now run the gauntlet in the House.

—It is said that a pool has been formed embracing all the principal cotton seed oil manufacturers, with a capital of \$20,000,000, the object of which is to control the price of the oil.

—A negro brute who outraged a white lady near Spartanburg, S. C., was publicly lynched in that town Monday evening, 1st inst. No masks were worn, and the business was done in an open, business-like way.

—All other departments of industry have organizations for the advancement of their respective interests; why should not the farmers, who represent the most important of all industries, have such organizations?

—We would be pleased if our friends throughout the State would report to us the condition of winter wheat, rye, etc., the acreage planted, and other items in reference to the crops planted, which may be of general interest.

—The farmers of California do things on a grand scale. Many of their wheat fields contain thousands of acres. They have machines with which they harvest as much as sixty acres per day. These machines cut, thresh, measure, and sack the grain as they move along.

—The principal subjects of discussion in Congress the past week were the Blair educational bill which passed the Senate and the Mexican veteran pension bill in the House, which afforded a number of gentlemen opportunity to make speeches, some of which were very eloquent.

—Emigrant agents, whose business it is to drum up negro labor in the South Atlantic States and carry them to the south-west to supply plantations there, say the exodus has not yet fairly begun, and that in addition to the large number who have already gone, at least 3,000 are now preparing to go, and these will be followed by large numbers.

—The debt statement issued by the Secretary of the Treasury for the month of February, shows the decrease of the public debt during February to be \$2,702,153.31; total cash in the treasury, \$494,489,985.53; gold certificates outstanding, \$105,637,050; silver certificates outstanding, \$88,390,816; certificates of deposit outstanding, \$14,920,000; legal tender notes outstanding, \$346,738,696; fractional currency, not including amount estimated as lost or destroyed, \$6,959,153.77.

NORTH CAROLINA PHOSPHATES.

The natural sources of wealth which exist along our Eastern border, have not as yet been explored and developed. The capabilities of that fruitful and favored section are incalculable. Gradually they are being brought to light. The developments of the phosphate deposits of South Carolina and the similarity in the geological characteristics of their locality to the section surrounding Wilmington, induced some of our more enterprising citizens to investigation with the view of discovering and locating if possible, deposits which they had reason to believe, existed. Dr. T. D. Hogg, of Raleigh, we believe was one of the foremost in the work. It was prosecuted under the auspices of the State Department of Agriculture. As a result, we now have a regularly organized Company, which is erecting extensive and substantial buildings, with all necessary machinery, at our Capitol for the manufacture of fertilizers from this rock. We learn that the capacity of the mills is 20 tons per day. Its value as a base in compounding fertilizers for various crops is attested by its analysis as determined by our State Experiment Station:

Bone Phosphate,.....	11.16 per cent.
Lime Carbonate,.....	64.26 " "
Magnesia,.....	0.81 " "
Potash,.....	0.40 " "
Water, only,.....	1.39 " "

The area covered by these deposits has not, as yet, been definitely determined, but the indications are that it will most probably exceed that of the South Carolina deposits. Of its value in a commercial point of view to our State, we may judge by the success which marked the development of the deposits in our sister State. Sixteen companies employing an aggregate capital of \$3,500,000, are engaged in working these beds, and their products go to more than half the States in the Union using commercial fertilizers. The State receives from these Companies a royalty amounting to about \$165,000 annually. When our deposits shall have been fully explored, it will probably be found, that the lands of Sampson, New Hanover, Pender, Brunswick and other counties, which hitherto have been regarded as worthless, will develop mines of wealth for our people. With over a thousand miles of inland navigable water-way, with a fish interest bringing to its people over one million dollars annually, with its broad forests of magnificent timbers, with its immense deposits of marl, more valuable than all our rich mines of gold and precious metals, with its three hundred miles of coast-line along which hundreds of thousands of acres of oysters may be successfully planted, and whose fruitful, fertile plains are so admirably adapted to the culture of early fruits and vegetables, who can estimate the possibilities of its future?

X TOO MUCH COTTON. X

The Interstate Agricultural Convention held its annual meeting at Jackson, Tenn., on the last week of February and sent out a note of warning to the cotton planters of the South, who, it says, are now at the absolute mercy of the speculators. Through the manipulation of these speculators, operating upon a large crop, the prices for the crop of 1885-86 were depressed to a figure below the actual cost of production, and emboldened by their success they have already fixed the prices of the crop of 1886-87. We quote from the address issued:

The cotton futures for the months of October; November and December, 1886, and January, 1887, are to-day quoted in New York at from 80c. to 84c., according to the months. This means not exceeding 84c. for middling cotton in New York or 84c. at the principal cotton shipping ports of the South, including such cities as New Orleans, Charleston, Savannah, Augusta, Mobile, Galveston and Memphis.

Middling cotton at these cities selling for 84c. means not more than 74c. to the planter, who must pay freight, insurance and regular commission charges, which generally average from 3-6c. to 1c. per pound. Now in view of these conditions so ruinous of our interests, we appeal to the intelligence of the cotton grower and ask him can he pay the expense of farming and make even a bare living by selling cotton at 74c. per pound. The answer is already given in the negative.

The question is here asked, where is the remedy? which is answered as follows:

We answer diversified crops. Plant one-third less cotton and more grain and grasses. Raise hogs and hominy. Let cotton be the surplus crop. Instead of producing 6,500,000 bales make only

4,500,000 bales. By this means we may realize a long price for our labor, and at the same time live independently of the speculating sharks who profit by our losses. In addition to this the Legislatures of each of the Southern States should be petitioned to make dealings for future delivery, unless cotton is actually on hand to sell and is actually delivered to the contracting purchaser, a felony punishable by a fine and imprisonment of not less than \$1,000 and two years in the penitentiary.

Too much cotton, too little grain, grass, meat. For years observant, thoughtful men have been warning our Southern planters against too much cotton, against one special crop; a crop which has become the subject of speculation and whose price is governed by speculators. There may be here and there an exception but as a rule our cotton planters who confine themselves to cotton and take their chances on the prices that speculators may make can never prosper, can never be independent. The larger the crop the worse it will be for them.

They have to pay stipulated wages, a stipulated price for the fertilizers they buy, the bread and meat they buy, the feed for stock they buy. The prices for these do not all with the price of cotton but sometimes advance and all they have to pay the bill with is cheap cotton which cost them more to raise than they can get for it. From a business standpoint this looks like a superlative lack of common sense, and yet thousands of cotton planters are traveling in the same old ruts, working themselves to death over broad cotton fields, learning nothing in spite of the bitter experience of each succeeding year.

There are thousands upon thousands of planters in the cotton belt who have been raising cotton ever since the war, who to-day have not cash enough to pay their fertilizer bills and taxes. And they have nothing to show for the labor of years. If they had abandoned the senseless plan of trying to raise all cotton and nothing else, of increasing their acreage year after year, and had raised less cotton and more of the necessities of life instead of buying them, this would not be so, but it will be so, and even more so until they change their tactics and use business sense in the operations of the plantation. Men who hope to prosper by cultivating the soil cannot go it blind and plant without regard to the question of demand and supply. They must exercise judgment and prudence as other men in other vocations do who are careful not to glut the market with their wares and run prices down below the cost of production. Instead of the cotton acreage being extended it should be contracted; better fewer bales from fewer acres, which means better prices and more money in the end, and on the other acres which are taken from cotton let grain, and grass be grown, and hogs and cattle and horses be raised; this means independence and in the long run wealth. Then the cotton planter, a mere cotton planter no longer, will cease to be the victim of over-production and of the speculator, the dealer in futures, but not until then.

A SPLENDID PREMIUM

Do you want one of J. P. Nissen's. No. 1, best make and best finished double wagons? If you do you have a chance to get it without costing you a dollar. See our premium list. Note also other premiums we offer.

IMMIGRATION.—During the last eleven years—1874 to 1885—the number of foreign immigrants who arrived in the United States was 4,602,915. Of these 34 millions were from Europe. The countries furnishing them are as follows: Germany, 1,304,868; Ireland, 578,755; England, 450,572; Sweden, 278,902; Norway, 162,721; Italy, 148,756; Austria, 118,937. Leaving these figures, no other European country rises to a hundred thousand, but the four highest are Russia, with 94,439; Switzerland, with 69,436; France, with 68,101; and Denmark, with 67,491.—Wilmington Star.

SOUTHERN M. E. CHURCH.—For the past year the Church Extension Board of the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church reports the following: The Secretary visited 70 Annual Conferences, travelling 79,000 miles. He went into 31 States and 8 Territories. The Board has made donations to 76 churches amounting to \$31,000, and made loans to 24 churches. The number of churches built by the Board so far is 512, to which \$80,000 was donated and \$28,000 loaned, the total of \$108,000 representing one-fifth of the cost of the churches, which are established mostly in the South and West.—Wilmington Star.

—The treaty of peace between Servia and Bulgaria was signed at Bucharest Monday 1st.

RANDOM JOTTINGS.

—In union there is strength. The granite rock is composed of grains of sand.

—The diamond is a sparkling stone, but pales in brilliancy in the presence of a healthy lightning bug.

—The mule is very much abused or a very much misunderstood animal. He never introduces his heels to any one who does not come close enough to get acquainted.

—Don't be too fussy. The hen that does the most cackling don't always lay the most eggs.

—There are kings who in spirit are paupers, and paupers who in spirit are kings. By the accident of birth, they changed places.

—Yellow fever, the cholera, and other epidemics are more or less confined to sections; but the cigarette in this country is becoming universal.

—Things run strangely in this world of ours. The populace will sometimes persecute a living man and idolize his corpse. Some men are never thoroughly appreciated until they are dead.

—There are fishes in the ocean that have no eyes. They seem to get along without them. There are men who, though they have eyes never seem to profit much by them. They see the way to pick their steps—that's all—but learn nothing as they move through life.

—Young man, let whiskey alone. It won't seek you, if you don't seek it. After becoming a little acquainted, it don't stand much on ceremony, and will take more liberties with you than you ever dreamed of taking with it. It is an acquaintance hard to shake.

—Look up into the starry heavens. See the countless multitude of orbs, great and small; and yet, no week passes that the astronomer's glass does not discover in the remote fields of space some new one that in all the ages before was hidden from sight. Where does creation end?

MAKE HOME PLEASANT.

To make money should not be the first object of a farmer's thoughts. Of course as a sensible man he will and should raise the crops that will best pay him for his labor, and get all the money he can for the crops that his labor has made. And he will work industriously, too, to raise as much as he can and have as much as he can to bring to market. This is right, for the more he earns the better able he will be to make his home what it should be, a bright and cheery one. But the farmer who starts out with the sole idea of making money and makes himself a slave, a mere machine, to carry out that idea begins wrong and lives to but little purpose. Such an idea means a life of drudgery, of self-denial, for himself and family, a day without a night of real, refreshing, invigorating rest; a sky without a sun. We have seen such farmers in our time and have pitied them. From day to day they followed their self-imposed treadmill task, always rushed with their work, no time to rest or be sociable, or to read and become acquainted with the big world they live in. Their farm, large or small, and their market town were the world to them. They seemingly knew of no other and cared for no other, and the only reason they took interest in these was because one gave them something to sell and the other a place to sell it. Their homes were cheerless places. Their wives knew only a life of monotonous, weary toil from early morn till late at night, and their children knew none of the pleasures of a real home. When large enough to pull grass or handle a hoe they, too, had to bend to work, take the place of a field hand, no time to play, no time for school. And so on from childhood to manhood or womanhood. No wonder that to such boys and girls life on the farm has its terrors, no wonder they long for a change, and when opportunity presents turn their backs upon the farm and seek the town, of which they have heard much and know little.

The farmer generally settles for life upon the farm, unlike the professional man, the merchant, trader or mechanic who are governed more or less by circumstances and move from place to place as fortune dictates or interest invites, and for this reason, if no other, he should make that home as attractive as possible, the first and most charming spot on

earth to him and his. It should be not simply a place of shelter from Winter's storms and Summer's sun but a place of rest, of comfort, of social refinement and domestic pleasure, a place where when the labors of the day were closed, father, mother, sons and daughters could gather in the cosy room, at the cheerful hearth, in the social family circle, pass the hours in pleasant, profitable conversation, in agreeable pastime, or in entertaining exercise of some kind, forgetting the toil of the day, and thus prepare themselves for pleasant slumbers to give them heart for the toil of to-morrow. There are such country homes, but there are not enough of them. They should be all so. And if they were what an envious one the life of the farmer would be. As it is among the noblest so it would also be the most fascinating of callings, a life of thorough independence and of thorough rational enjoyment, the life begun in early manhood which the tired denizen of the busy world of trade and politics, wearied with the turmoil, the excitement, the unsatisfied yearnings of ambition, longing for rest, seeks at life's close, a quiet, happy home, a refuge afar from the din and bustle of the busy world, the noisy, restless, rushing throng of men. Such the farm should be, not simply a place to toil and stay, but a place to live, to live and enjoy life under a bright and cheery roof, made attractive and lovable to young and old, a home that father and mother look on with pride and that son or daughter leave with sorrow and return to with glad hearts.

Our Exchanges.

—We regret the loss to Judge Thomas Ruffin, of his residence, on the 20th ult. by fire. Loss \$5,000. No insurance.

—Mr. J. W. Tickle killed a pig 7 months and 3 days old a few days ago that weighed 200 pounds.—Alamance Gleaner.

—The swain county Terra Cotta Company, capital stock \$5,000, has been organized at Whittier, to manufacture terra cotta.

—We learn from the *Headlight* that Battleboro is to have a new hotel and a smoking tobacco factory.

—Hundreds of plant beds are being made through this section and millions of tobacco seed have been sown.—High Point Enterprise

—Ex-Attorney General, Thomas Kenan has been appointed Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State as successor to Wm. H. Bagley, deceased.

—Within a month a considerable number of persons from this county and from Watauga, will leave for various parts of the Western country.—Lenoir Topic.

—Old man Pickens, the colored mail carrier between Lenoir and Wilkesboro, carries a tin horn and duly announces his arrival and departure at and from every post-office.—Lenoir Topic.

—Messrs. William J. Hester and Chalmers A. Purnell, of Little River township, tell us that the tobacco crop of their township will be doubled this year. Little River is coming to the front and tobacco is making it rich.—Lenoir Topic.

—Near Macon, McDowell county, last Wednesday, D. C. Bright was clubbed to death by Herbert Bird and his two sons, for claiming the right of way through their land after having been warned off.

—The tobacco factory, with fixtures and lot, of Messrs. Bitting & Whitaker that was sold a few days since, was bought by Mr. W. A. Whitaker, the latter a member of the firm, for \$9,000 and we understand he will continue the manufacture of tobacco.—Twin-City Daily.

—Thirteen marriage licenses were issued in this country during February.—The attendance at the Winston Graded School, white and colored, now aggregates 830 pupils.—The Revenue Collections at the branch office in Winston, during the month of February, amounted to \$32,800.80.—Sentinel.

—We learn from a prominent citizen of Hominy that several citizens in that section of the county are contemplating bringing suit against the Western North Carolina Fair Association to recover premiums awarded at the fair, and remain unpaid.—Asheville Advance.